

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-34 were originally pending in this application. Claims 20-23 have been withdrawn from consideration and claim 34 has been cancelled. Thus, claims 1-19 and 24-33 are currently pending. Claims 1, 15, 16 and 24 are independent. By this Amendment, independent claims 1, 15, 16 and 24 are amended. Also, dependent claims 7-14, 19, 26-29 and 31-33 are amended. No new matter has been added by this Amendment.

Drawings

Claim 24 has been amended in part to address the objection to the drawings. As a result, Applicants respectfully assert that the drawings no longer require correction.

Claim Objections

Claims 7-14 have been objected to by the Examiner based on certain informalities. Those claims have been amended in response to the Examiner's objection. Claim 19 has also been amended to correct a minor informality.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 7, 9, 13-16 and 24-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,553,735 to Kimura ("Kimura").

Kimura discloses a vessel where an "outer shell and inner shell form a cavity in which decorations and/or information can be stored." Col. 1, lines 41-42. Fig. 8 of Kimura illustrates a vessel with a cavity 53 in which decorations are inserted. The Kimura specification states that Fig. 8 is similar to Fig. 4, where the bottom closure piece is removed to allow insertion of the

decorations. See Col. 3, lines 39-43. Thus, the decorations are not flush with the outer shell and are instead inserted between the inner shell and the outer shell from the bottom of the vessel.

Independent claims 1, 15, 16 and 24, on the other hand, are at least directed to a container where a display unit is inserted and displayed externally through the sidewall such that the display unit is flush with the plane of the sidewall. Those claims have been amended to highlight these distinctions over Kimura.

As a result, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claims 1, 15, 16 and 24 are distinguishable over Kimura for at least the above reasons. Claims 7, 9, 13-14 and 25-33, which depend from those independent claims, are also asserted to be distinguishable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 24, 25 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,172,948 to Keller et al. (“Keller”).

Keller discloses “an optical storage device or compact disc recorder . . .” Col. 5, lines 18-19. Independent claim 24 has been amended and is directed to a container, which is clearly distinguishable over Keller. Claim 25, which depends from claim 24, is also asserted to be distinguishable for at least the same reason. Claim 34 has been cancelled.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2-6, 10-12 and 17-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,084,526 to Blotky et al. (“Blotky”).

Applicants respectfully assert that independent claims 1, 15 and 16 are distinguishable over Kimura for at least the reasons stated above. Applicants respectfully assert that claims 2-6, 10-12 and 17-19, which depend from those independent claims, are also distinguishable over Kimura for at least the same reasons.

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,339,548 to Russell ("Russell").

Applicants respectfully assert that independent claim 1 is distinguishable over Kimura for at least the reasons stated above. Applicants respectfully assert that claim 8, which depends from independent claim 1, is also distinguishable over Kimura for at least the same reasons.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4148-4002. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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